

Garfield County

Local Planning Summary

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**



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GARFIELD COUNTY, GENERAL PLAN, 1995
&
FIVE COUNTY AOG, COUNTY FACT SHEET, 1999

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Most unincorporated areas within the County have seen a steady decline in population since the 1950's, and today is one of the least densely populated counties in the State. The unique geography of Garfield County has produced large deposits of unique natural resources, but many of them are in locations too remote to extract economically. The County's economy is struggling, and they are looking to tourism for growth. The Plan has a designation that is intended to regulate the private land inholdings that are surrounded by extensive forest service lands.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>Garfield County began as an agricultural settlement. A lack of transportation facilities and a short growing season have limited the County's growth. Parts of the County were considered one of the "last frontiers". Supplies were taken to the area by pack horse or mule train until the mid-1930s. Large deposits of natural resources were discovered and mined in the 1950s, but most mining activity has declined since then.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unique geography of Garfield County has produced large deposits of unique natural resources (i.e. petroleum, uranium, vanadium, coal, etc). However, the remote location of the resource impacts the feasibility of their extraction, (p.3-1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Upper Valley oil field is productive. • The County has one of four uranium mines in the Nation, (p. D-3). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peak production took place in 1950s, but declined in the 1970s. The mines are currently closed (as of 1993). • There is no dominant component of the local economy. "Government" makes the greatest contribution: 17.7% of all income to the County, (p.5-1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tourism brings in 11.1%, manufacturing at 7.6%.

<p>Economic Values, <i>continued</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Since the time of the earliest settlement, the principal means of income in Garfield Co has been agriculture,” (p.A-2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ However, temperature ranges are extreme (the growing season is only 84days), so livestock is the principal source of agricultural income. • The lack of transportation facilities has been the major restraint to economic growth in the County, (p.A-2). • Tourism may have the greatest potential for growth, (p. A-2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1993, Capitol Reef NP had 610,000 visitors, Bryce Canyon had 1.1million, and Glen Canyon NP had almost 3.6million.
<p>Environmental Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual precipitation ranges from 10-20inches per year, but usually only comes in two distinct seasons, (p. A-3).
<p>Forest-Specific Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County has created a “Forest/Recreation District” to regulate the private land inholdings that are surrounded by forest service lands, (p.1-7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum lot size is 22,000 square feet, and must incorporate wildfire protection measures.
<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands cover 96% of the County area, (p.1-1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three national parks, national recreation area, and a national forest. • Policy to attend BLM, USFS, and UDNR resource planning meetings, (p.6-11). • Policy to “develop a well documented and substantiated request to increase the number of AUMs allotted within the County,” (p.6-12).
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garfield County is the second least densely populated county in the State, with only 0.8 people per square mile (in 1993), (p.A-2). • Most areas within the (unincorporated) County have seen a steady decline in population since the 1950’s, with the exception of Boulder, Escalante, and Panguitch, (p. B-1). • 31% of residents had lived there over 20years (in 1990), (p. C-10). • Population is expected to grow slowly in the coming decades, (p.1 (Five County)).